

Social Questions Bulletin

June 46

OCTOBER, 1956

The Methodist Federation for Social Action, an unofficial membership organization, founded in 1907, seeks to deepen within the Church, the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solutions and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation stands for the complete abolition of war. The Federation rejects the method of the struggle for profit as the economic base for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without class or group discriminations and privileges. In seeking these objectives, the Federation does not commit its members to any specific program, but remains an inspirational and educational agency, proposing social changes by democratic decisions, not by violence.

Reflections on the Election

By Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman,
First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles

One major problem emerged from the two big party conventions held this summer. I have called it the peril of the premature gavel. On Wednesday night of the Democratic convention the debate over the civil rights plank seemed to demand thorough and vigorous discussion on the floor. Many delegates from many organizations that had sent spokesmen to the planking sessions on previous days felt the civil rights issue was of first importance at the convention. And then came Sam Rayburn's gavel. The real debate never took place. The token time allowed for discussion was a mockery for a party named "democratic." The delegates waving for the Texas chairman's eye were ignored with Olympian contempt. The official version of the plank was rammed through with all the arrogance of a many Hall sachem of the early twenties. The gavel fell and the meeting was over. A civil rights statement weaker than the one written in 1952 was to be the platform plank on the issue of segregation for the Democrats during the two and a half years of the campaign. From here on in the only hope for improvement lay with Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Kefauver in their campaign speeches, and their own proposals if they got elected. The gavel came down with merciless abruptness in Chicago. The voice of the delegates, and the voice of the people behind the delegates, was sheared off with miserable contempt . . . uncounted millions saw the spectacle!

At San Francisco, another gavel fell two short weeks after. Massachusetts Congressman Joseph Martin was chairman. Nominations for Vice-President were being made. A delegate from the mid-west proposed the name of Joe Smith as an alternative to that of Richard Nixon. After a few moments of confusion, annoyance and mockery, Mr. Martin banged the gavel and shouted: "Take Joe Smith and get out of here so we can get along with the convention." That was the last feeble effort to consider any substitute for the name of the Vice-President. Mr. Smith obviously was not in the script for the Cow Palace convention. It was an impertinence to the television networks, as obviously a monkeywrench thrown by a one-time Democratic who had by subversion gotten himself into a Republican convention and defied the edict that the ticket at an "open convention" was to be Eisenhower and Nixon, period!

I mention these premature gavels falling before the delegates had speaking with more than cynicism and anger. I am much disturbed at what is happening to the American people in a year when we presumably are seeking the best possible leadership and the most thoughtful solution of problems, including civil rights, that can be discovered. And both party conventions spread across millions of television screens and shouted to hundreds of millions of radio speakers: "The people be damned . . . We know how to handle these matters better without much wrangling and public washing of our linen."

That I resented from both Mr. Rayburn in Chicago and Mr. Martin in San Francisco was the implication that American voters are robots who can be deftly manipulated . . . without protest! Carey McWilliams wrote after leaving San Francisco: "As in any other matters, the President's advisers have acted as though his and their sole responsibility was to sell the people predetermined decisions." At Chicago this plan of action was

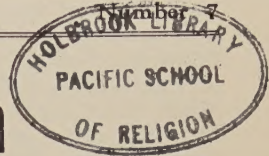
less successful though I, for one, had the feeling that Mr. Rayburn had his mind made up and that he would do all possible to push through his favorite planks and his choice of candidates with the greatest possible dispatch. To be sure, Mr. Stevenson's insistence upon an open-floor selection of a vice-presidential running mate was no help to this plan shared by Mr. Rayburn and many other professional bosses, and the outcome was even less pleasant for them. But on the greatest single issue facing American democracy today it was successful, and the Negro vote may be the price the Democrats will pay for this brutal contempt for the process of open-platform discussion.

I am not saying that it will be judicious for the Negro people who cannot abide the Eastland and Talmadge Dixiecrat wing of the Democratic party to vote for Eisenhower and Nixon; but I think many will do so because they saw the Democrats cynically by-pass an issue which the nation is watching with great concentration of mind.

The magazine, *The Southern Patriot*, published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, wrote bitterly in their September issue: "Major parties are deaf to petitions from the decent South." It quoted the petitions signed by 600 residents of 13 Southern states, given to the Platform Committees of both major parties, and stating: "The federal government has a clear duty to guarantee to all Southerners the rights and privileges of full citizenship." It is an eloquent and documented petition from white and Negro Southerners who feel they are not heard in these days in their plea for full voting and educational privileges. If Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Kefauver say as little as they have since the convention on this matter, about Tennessee and Kentucky, to say nothing of Mississippi and Louisiana and Georgia, they will see many Negro ballots go into Republican columns, and the fault will be their own. Mr. Stevenson did not help at all in his speech to the Liberal Party of New York on September 12th when he said: "We reject all proposals for the use of force to interfere with orderly determination of these matters by the courts." I agree with I. F. Stone that this is indeed double talk, just as Mr. Eisenhower's remarks about the Negro mother, Mrs. Louis Gordon, of Clay, Kentucky, who wants to see her sons enter an integrated school, is also double talk. The President, by inference, spoke of her as one of those "extremists who want the whole matter settled today." Both Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Eisenhower know that the decisions of the Supreme Court must, on occasion, have a show of force behind them, not in 2000 A.D. but now. It is true when a kidnapper steals a child; it is true when a Harry Grunewald manipulates Senatorial campaign funds; it is true when a young man robs a bank. It will have to be true when a citizen defies the law about equal education and integrated education in our schools and colleges, or we have turned over government to every mob that chooses to flout the law.

For both of the parties to dismiss discussion of this issue by dropping a heavy gavel on the delegates when this plank came up was to imperil the very essence of the American democratic philosophy.

Quote *The Nation*: "Each time a key decision is manipulated, it becomes a little easier to manipulate the next one." That is indeed the point. One forgives much in the press-agentry and circus atmosphere of our conventions and our barnstorming by television, the fast speaking and the careless writing, but one



thing you and I cannot grow careless about, and that is the by-passing of the people, the fourth branch of government, and no less important than the judicial, the executive and the legislative.

An electronic convention, and a resounding gavel do not make for liberty or popular deliberation by delegates, and unless millions of us protest in a thousand ways every day between now and November we will see only a mask of democracy left. There are cynics enough amongst us who plan to stay away from the polls, who cry "a plague on both your houses," who think it is too late to do anything about the matter. I for one do not think so. We can, on the city, county, state and national level work in season and out to elect candidates who listen to the voice of their constituents. And a Congress filled with such members in both houses can be made to listen to the forgotten branch of government, the people.

I am speaking today of both major parties. I look at the record of the 84th Congress and I see enormous dereliction of duty on both sides of the aisle. The Democratic party leadership was in majority control, but by a process of compromise and maneuver, it side-tracked many major issues that threatened a showdown with reaction. A bi-partisan paralysis made a cheap charade of the legislative branch of government. The people have spoken again in recent years for issues that were shelved in Washington, rather than face real Congressional controversy. Let me name a few examples: The school construction bill, the civil rights bill, the Federal FEP bill, statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration bill, amendment of the Taft-Hartley law, expansion of minimum wage coverage to agricultural workers. These bills all died on the floor of Congress through a conspiracy of Democrats and Republicans who knew well the expressed conscience of millions of Americans and ignored it with brutal indifference.

These are not issues that are new and confusing; they are issues on which churches, unions, party clubs, women's groups, professional organizations have spoken with tremendous popular agreement. The conscience of the people, as Gallup polls have recently stated so firmly, is outstripping the Congress and party top echelons on many of these great issues that have awaited decision for many, many years.

If the Democrats and the Republicans both want the peace votes of America on November 6th, they can get them best by supporting all of the positive actions for peace during these past four years which spelled out new understanding that killing men in war to settle issues has become utterly obsolete, that hydrogen war is another phrase for the end of all human life on earth. Mr. Stevenson and other Democrats have been very clear on the need to stop hydrogen bomb tests. Let us all recognize that this is all to the good, and let Republicans make sure that the President speaks firmly on this point also. And let both parties commit themselves far, far more than they have to the repeal of all the bi-partisan programs of war thinking that continue to plague us in this land: the vast military hierarchy in Washington's Pentagon and elsewhere, the war-time security hysteria ten years after the war is over, the national budgets swollen out of all meaning with war expenditures when welfare items take but a few per cent of the budget. Both parties have danced away from a real discussion of disarmament, and both defy the popular will in doing so. The cold war is over with the American people, but not with either party, with either convention or either presidential candidate. There is much that you and I can do before November to get more direct statements on peace programs from both major party candidates. Does Mr. Stevenson not know that the American people thank heaven for Mr. Eisenhower's firm resistance to his atomic trigger-happy aides at those moments when World War III seemed upon us? To do less than to congratulate Mr. Eisenhower for this resistance and to promise even greater dedication to peace is for any opponent of President Eisenhower to risk defeat on November 6th.

The apparatus of war still operates in bi-partisan Washington. The candidate who really called for repeal of much of this archaic machinery would win many a vote in November. McCarthy is gone from the center of the Washington stage, but we still have the Subversive Activities Control Board liquidating a Washington cooperative bookstore for its failure to register. We still have the Attorney General's list of heretical organizations. We still have the F.B.I. at the doorstep of young attorneys who are so injudicious as to join the Lawyers' Guild. We still have the Un-American Committee driving out of employment musicians

in our Hollywood studios who signed petitions and worked peace and spoke their minds when silence was considered height of prudence.

Professor Zechariah Chafee, Jr., of Harvard Law School wrote in his newest book, "The Blessings of Liberty": "Of the arguments in favor of freedom of speech the strongest that it gives us a better country to live in, with fewer suspicions, animosities, informers, heresy trials, and more scope for initiative and originality."

Is it old-fashioned today for me to say that this freedom what we need even more than accelerated obsolescence in motor cars, more than color TV or well-stocked freezers? Is one thing that will restore democratic life to a country left to sleep by the sirens of public relations is a shock from its and file, its grass-roots workers in every organization worth salt. Nothing is a substitute for millions of voters speaking their convictions about their welfare and the peace of the world. Everything else is of secondary importance to the initiative veto power of the common citizen, wherever he lives. I am the five-day week, the six-hour day, the well-filled larder, the decent pension for our aged. I am for the available hospital, the open school, the church we may enter or pass by; but I have I reflect your conscience as well as mine in saying that the gains must be for all or none, not for a privileged few of right complexion, the right birthplace and the right party. Is the instrument that will assure us of these blessings will be electorate that repudiates the Rayburns and the Martins who turn their backs on their own delegates and show open contempt for the democratic process by banging the gavel on the rank and file who want to be heard.

I agree with James Reston of the New York Times in alarm at the mass hypocrisy of the two conventions, the brazen indifference toward well informed public opinion, the million-dollar peddling of obvious nonsense for four days across forty-eight states over all circuits of all networks. He is right when he says: "What once began as a small and serious effort to define party programs and select the best presidential candidates has degenerated into vast theatrical sales campaigns."

My thesis is that such a ridiculing of the democratic process in a day of fast transportation and even swifter communication of ideas need not continue forever. We can stop that premature gavel. We can confront a candidate with our personal and collective will. We can insist that Congress not by-pass any every important measure. We can by our actions end the world real and not fancied fear of a third world war. We can face the real dangers of a 1957 depression, if the explosion of our color-inflationary bubble is not properly handled. We can hammer out in the next four years a new party, if need be, of workers and farmers and small businessmen. We can lower the real self-evident class walls that divide our country. I make no apology to Mr. Nixon who this past week denied the very existence of class. Surely Mr. Nixon must know that there are classes as long as we have a select power elite of the very rich and co-existence of 24 million American families with incomes less than 1500 dollars a year. People who have gained a portion of generous economic security are the last to admit the reality of the class struggle. Few who cross the railroad tracks like to cast a look back. But those of the 24 million who live there have no illusion—the \$80-a-month pensioner, the small shopkeeper, the migrant field worker, the rural school teacher know that prosperity is a slippery word, that an economy with such heights and depths of riches and poverty can topple from a very small earthquake.

If we are to avoid the perils brought on by the use of a premature gavel, then the important thing right now is to have a great deal more debate, discussion, door-bell ringing, town meetings, letters to the editor . . . and, above all, searching of the private conscience for one's deep convictions. Our confidence, now as in the critical days of Jackson, Lincoln, Wilson and F.D.R., is that we become a people who think, listen, speak and vote our real desires, and turn out of office those who flout our will and sleep through their congressional terms. The gavel can be held back until the people speak. If that is not sound American doctrine, I have lived 50 years in this land in vain.

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THE TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

foreign policy planks of both major parties leave much desired from the viewpoint of MFSA program. As one step from the arms race and war, MFSA has asked a cessation of major powers of further testing of atomic and hydrogen weapons. Now Mr. Stevenson has espoused the same position. The total picture, not just one point, must be considered in deciding how to vote. This Bulletin does not tell its readers how to vote, and never has. But if you agree with the position MFSA stand against nuclear weapon testing, we suggest you write Mr. Stevenson a word of commendation, and Mr. Hoover an appeal for a change of mind.

THE HARD FACTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ATOMIC RADIATION, OUTMODED WAR, AND OTHER HARD FACTS: The report on atomic radiation issued by the National Academy of Science is enough to chill the blood of the most excitable firebrand. Trouble is, most excitable firebrands read it.

The scientists say that the combined radiation coming from atomic tests, atomic industry and natural causes may be enough to affect the future heredity of the human race. It may—without atomic explosions of a future war—be enough to depopulate the planet.

Now nobody can be sure of this. It's just an informed guess, say the experts who are best informed about atomics. But if there's the slightest chance that such a catastrophe is taking in the radiation-laden clouds, you wouldn't think it's a matter of taking chances.

Obviously, those big powers which possess and test atomic weapons have not been overly influenced by the threat. Despite calls from many quarters for an end to H-bomb tests the United States recently insisted that the show must go on. It went on, the bomb was dropped a few miles off target, and by blinding a few observers and placing others under the threat of poisonous radiation.

The Soviet Union has asked the United States to agree to an atomic moratorium, but has nevertheless gone ahead testing its own hydrogen weapons. The British are also planning to conduct further tests in Australia.

These tests may spell collective suicide for our children and our children's children.

War is simply no longer possible. And the preparation for it is itself a physical threat to humanity.

In practical terms this means that we have to find ways to live together with the rest of the people who share this sphere of ours, regardless of the social or political system under which we live.—Reprinted from Labor's Daily, June 20, 1956.

AMERICAN CHURCHMEN REPORT THEIR SOVIET VISIT

What follows is appropriate background reading for World Order Sunday, Nov. 11, in Methodist churches. MFSA has long urged Methodist churchmen to engage in East-West exchange visits—in the interest of understanding, reconciliation, and peace to which the Gospel of Jesus impels us. We take this from World Alliance News Letter.

The following statement is the report of seven prominent Protestant clergymen and two laymen who visited the U.S.S.R. as guests of Alexei, Archbishop of Moscow and All Russia. The mission, organized under the auspices of the National Council of Churches, was to church leaders in the U.S.S.R., including Russian Orthodox, Lutherans in Latvia and Estonia, and Evangelical Christian-Baptists.

A group of Soviet religious leaders visited the United States in June, 1955, the second part of a two-way visit to open communication between the churches of the two countries. Such communication has virtually not existed since the establishment of the U.S.S.R.

The experience was profitable. We understand the Russian churchmen better as a result of our conversations. We are also confident that our clear statements face to face enabled them to understand us better.

It is apparent that Church and State have reached at least a temporary accommodation.

It was stated again and again that Church and State are separate. In a limited sense this is true, by our standards. There seems to be no interference with worship in the church. Conditions were large and devout in the relatively few available churches with a preponderance of older people and of women. The element in the few theological seminaries that are open is at least city. Some churches have been repaired and a few new

ones are being built, though there are far from enough.

Religious Education Limited

The most severe limitation of the church is in the area of education; for there seems to be no religious education except in the home by parents and by priests or ministers on occasional visitations. Publication of literature is confined almost entirely to books used in worship. It is clear that the churches generally are confined within themselves. They regard their function as that of saving souls and preparing them for Heaven.

Narrow Conception of Church's Mission

This generally prevailing concept of the mission of the church is in our judgment inadequate. It has not always been so narrowly conceived by the churches now in the Soviet Union. There is obviously a fundamental difference between the concept of the mission of the church as we found it in the Soviet Union today and that which we hold in our churches. We hope that further conversations will bring both to them and to us a deeper understanding of the church's mission. On our side, we are already grateful for a deepened appreciation of the elements of devotion and mystery in Christianity. We hope that further contacts will lead them to increased concern for the totality of life.

During the last several years the policy of the Soviet government has discouraged persecution of the churches and has regarded the clergy and other believers as loyal citizens. At the same time it has increased the aggressiveness of scientific education as the means ultimately to eradicate religion. Thus the church has more freedom than in preceding decades but at the same time confronts a more subtle challenge. It is our hope that, even within the limitations imposed by the state, the church will find effective answers and effective means for teaching to the end that the Christian faith may be maintained and strengthened.

The Church and Peace Propaganda

In return for freedom of worship the leaders of the churches have apparently inclined to go along with Soviet communist leadership in important areas. Perhaps the most distressing illustration is in the area of peace propaganda.

We had frank discussion of that matter. We are convinced that the Russian churches and people ardently desire peace.

It appeared to us that their concept of peace was derived not only from the Soviet Foreign Office but also from an inadequate concept of the mission of the church.

We pointed out that the World Peace Council, in which church leaders from Russia have given conspicuous leadership, has consistently taken the same line as that of the Soviet government and that participants from the West have not been truly representative of Western churches. We emphasized the necessity of finding some other basis than their past positions if we are to work together for peace.

The Means to Peace

We made it clear that the means to peace are as important as the end. Specifically, we set forth certain positions taken by the National Council of Churches, for example: (1) Peace cannot be achieved apart from justice, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. (2) The reduction and abolition of atomic weapons cannot be separated from effective inspection and control, nor in isolation from other armaments. (3) The goal of independence and freedom for subject and colonial peoples is best reached through processes of law and order and by free elections under international control.

The contact we have already had with the church leaders in the Soviet Union has been worth while. Despite many and difficult differences we found important common ground as

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Christians. We look forward to a continuation of conversations in the United States. We were courteously received in Russia and we hope to reciprocate here. A beginning has been made. Under the guidance and power of God, we believe the churches of Jesus Christ may be used for the reconciling and salvation of the nations.

Members Of the Delegation

- Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, President of the National Council of Churches, and Chairman of the Delegation.
- Paul B. Anderson, Associate Executive Secretary, International Committee of YMCA's.
- Rev. Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, Associate General Secretary, National Council of Churches.
- Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, President of the United Lutheran Church in America.
- Rev. Dr. Herbert Gezork, President, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary.
- Bishop D. Ward Nichols, Presiding Bishop, First (N.Y.) Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Charles Coolidge Parlin, Methodist layman, senior member of the legal counsel firm of Shearman, Sterling and Wright.
- Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
- Rev. Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Director, Department of International Affairs, National Council of Churches.

COMMENTS ON THE SUEZ CRISIS

Our government leaders showed good sense in turning their backs on a war which their own misguided policies helped bring near. Our leaders and other Western spokesmen now admit: The territory involved is Egyptian; and Egypt's nationalization of the canal was legal. Despite contrary predictions, Egyptian control has not stopped the smooth flow of ship traffic through the canal.

Tensions would have been reduced and the crisis avoided or minimized, had our government not so abruptly and discourteously withdrawn its earlier offers of economic aid to Egypt for the Aswan Dam. The United Nations Middle East Survey shows Egypt has far too many people to feed from her cultivable acres. Too much of her soil is now arid. To feed her many hungry people, Egypt imperatively needs the irrigation the Aswan Dam would help provide.

Our friendly and fraternal aid without political strings would have earned us respect, esteem, friendship. We resorted instead to outdated power politics. Egypt must be put "in her place" for her too neutralist foreign policy, for not supporting our anti-Soviet Middle Eastern military alliance fiasco, for recognizing with Engand and many others the existing, actual government of China. So we suddenly withdrew our offers of Aswan Dam aid. The Suez Canal nationalization and crisis followed.

Do we espouse the internationalization of internationally needed and used canals, on high moral grounds? Then what of the Panama Canal, an international waterway on foreign soil, solely administered and controlled by us? Virtues like charity and justice begin at home.

J.R.M.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federation held in New York on September 24th, two matters occupied most of the discussion. The original case of the Federation against the Eastland committee cannot now be appealed, because of expiration of time for appeal. One of the unfortunate "breaks" in the affair was the time of year when it was difficult because of vacations to get a meeting for consideration of the best strategy. Two alternatives appear possible at the moment. One is a definite suit for damages. The other is to use the "Freedom Fund" money on hand for such advertising and publicity as will get the situation sufficiently known to arouse public sentiment. It is assumed that those who gave for the "Freedom Fund" will approve the deliberative action of the Federation as to the best way to obtain justice and clear the good name of the founders of the Federation. Those who do not approve should write their suggestions or requests to the national office of the Federation.

Discussion also was directed toward plans for the Golden Anniversary of the Federation in 1957. While formal organization was made in Washington, D. C., in December of 1907, the decision to organize was made in Dr. Tippy's study in Cleveland. It was voted to refer the matter of time and place to the membership as a whole together with a request for their judgment as to the next step to be taken on the infamous Eastland document.

-Lloyd F. Worley.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Since this column last appeared, the Suez crisis and election have pushed out of the headlines the issue that then most dominant. That was the wide demand, at home abroad, for revision of our foreign policy. The convention evaded this issue. So have the campaign speeches thus far except for Stevenson's brief generalizations about world disarmament, bomb tests and the draft. Both sides are kept from the basic need for defining and implementing the term peaceful coexistence because one started the cold war and other has continued it. The differences between them are how best to transpose the threat of war preparations into economic and propaganda pressures, and which is the more effective armaments program. The main reliance is upon the threat of force and not upon steps to eliminate the need to use it. This perpetuation of cold war strategy which has made the Suez situation so dangerous.

So far the uneasy combination of the dying colonial imperialism of Britain and France with the vital imperialism of our war policy has met with several checks. The attempt to remove Iran by deposing Nasser leaves him nationally stronger than before, with the Arab world uniting around him and most of the world sympathetic. The threat of economic penalties, with little support from the smaller Western nations, failed to make him accept international control. The Western Big Three did not wait to go to the U.N. until after the election. Now the Suez issue is still in the air.

What comes out depends upon whether actions can be kept within the charter limits of securing and aiding negotiation. Sharp practice as maneuvering for a Soviet veto will get nowhere. To support any form of international control over the territory of Egypt in violation of her sovereignty would destroy what national authority was left after the disastrous Korean adventure and has been strengthened by action in the Israeli-Arab clash.

The moral and legal problem in the Suez Canal dispute is to adjust the two rights involved—the sovereign right of Egypt to control its own territory and the right of users of the canal to have safe conduct, efficient and just treatment. The right to nationalize, even when foreign interests are involved, is recognized in international law decisions which Dulles and Eden have ignored but the U.N. may not. Confiscation is not an issue since the owners of the previous Suez Canal Company, the largest of the British government, are to receive the market value of their stock. Since the present concession ends in 1968 what stockholders lose is the very high future returns on their investment (which has been repaid many times) over and above reinvestment possibilities. Morally over against this must be what the millions of Egypt now living in abject and repulsive poverty would gain from the use of canal revenue to change the economic situation.

Our action is not so tinged with the spirit of the "acquisitive society" as that of Britain and France. In large part it professes to base itself on fear of inefficiency, injustice and discrimination by Egypt. Hear we have another cold war symptom, passing to the decision under the Smith Act which has sent hundreds of people to jail for fear of what they might possibly do at some time in the future. In the Egyptian situation, this is not vicious but also ridiculous. Egypt needs the canal returns to carry through her economic improvement program so it is in her highest self interest to give the users efficient and just treatment.

Furthermore, to guarantee this it is certainly not necessary to infringe upon Egyptian sovereignty. The present canal company was organized and operated under Egyptian law. As long as guaranteeing impartial safe conduct, it provided for a check on efficiency and complaint to the Egyptian government, a request for the necessary administrative action. Nasser has recently announced in an interview not seen in our press that on these points Egypt is strictly observing the old convention. He is prepared to conclude in this matter a new international agreement of a similar character. India has been working for a similar agreement in this direction. The block is not there but in the Western attempt to infringe upon Egypt's sovereignty.

It is time for the religious leadership of this nation to open its eyes to the cold war reliance upon force the higher morality of "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

H.F.W.

CORRECTION—In the last Bulletin, in connection with the international friendship correspondence project, Mrs. Seaman's address should have been Oakdale, not Oakland.